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Docket Management Branch (HFA-305)

147 Porter Lake Drive

Food and Drug Administration

Springfield, MA 01106

5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

(413) 732-3240

Rockville, MD 20852

NOV 30 12:12
November 22, 1999

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Docket #97 N-48452-

I am a member of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and also of the American Civil Liberties Union. I support equal civil rights for all people, including reproductive rights.

I was very concerned to learn that at the Human Tissue Seminar in April, 1999 regulations were proposed which would ban anonymous sperm donation by gay men and also the sperm donation by a gay man known to the prospective mother unless the man has his sperm frozen, quarantined for six months and then retested for HIV before use for insemination. The freezing process, I understand, destroys the fertility of the sperm of 84% of men. Therefore the regulations would prevent most gay men from having children.

I understand also that the FDA excludes from sperm donation "men who have had sex with other men in the last five years", even if now in a monogamous relationship. Heterosexual men donating sperm have no such restrictions.

Certainly careful testing is needed to guard against HIV and other hazards in sperm banks. But such rules as these seem to me Draconian and discriminatory when applied only to gay donors. HIV/AIDS is not a gay disease and present tests are very reliable. I urge that these proposed rules not be adopted, or be modified in the interest of fairness.

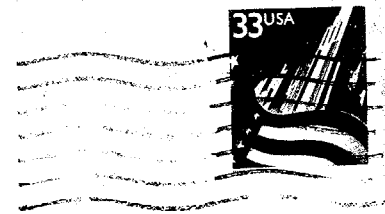
Thank you for your courtesy. Please let me know your stand.

Sincerely,

97N-4845

Elizabeth V. Simon C12

Simon
147 Porter Lake Drive
Springfield, MA 01106



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